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The Friday Letter

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FNS Celebrates Departmental Service Awardees

On June 12, the Department held the 45th Honor Awards Ceremony and FNS was well represented!

Ron Vogel, Director, Supplemental Food Program Division, received the Department's Superior Service Award in the category of food assistance "For outstanding contributions in promoting better health and nutrition for needy women and young children."

At a luncheon honoring all the FNS awardees **Ron** thanked individuals in FMD, NTSD, OAE and his staff for all of their support and hard work.

The Mid-Atlantic Payment Accuracy Team, commonly known as the "Ma Pat Team" received a Group Achievement Superior Service Award "For innovative leadership in improving Food Stamp Program payment accuracy in the Mid-Atlantic Region." FNS group members are **Ralph Picone**, group leader, **Jim Goodale**, **Walter Haake** and **Marian Wig**. Other group members are: **Mary Jo Thomas**, West Virginia Department of HHS, **Dan Jeffers**, Philadelphia County Assistance Office, **Nancy Pearsall**, New Castle Northeast State Service Center, **Jack Martin**, Camden County Board of Social Services, **Gretchen Rowell**, Virginia Department of Social Services, **Robert McCormack**, Maryland Department of Human Resources, and **Dexter Stannard**, D.C. Department of Human Resources. "The Ma Pat Team is 'proof positive' that a coalition of federal, state and local people is the most effective way to make progress," said **Chris Martin**, MARO's Regional Administrator.

FNS received the Secretary's Award for Work Force Diversity "For demonstrating and achieving outstanding accomplishments in promoting the goal of Work Force Diversity." "This was the first year this award has been given," said **Betty Jo Nelsen**, "It recognizes the Agency who made the most significant contributions in achieving the Department's Work Force Diversity goal." **Betty Jo** also talked about FNS's newly released Work Force Diversity Brochure, and recognized **Joe Leo** and **Larry Brantley** for their leadership, steady guidance and long hours devoted to this effort. **Betty Jo** also told the group that the plaque will be a "traveling plaque" and each region will have a chance to display it.



Ron Vogel



RA **Chris Martin** and the FNS members of the Ma Pat Team. (l to r) **Ralph Picone**, **Walter Haake**, **Marian Wig**, **Chris Martin**, and **Jim Goodale**. This was the third year in a row that **Jim** has received a superior service award

TEAM FNS

Bertini Launches WIC EBT Project in Wyoming

Story and Photo by Craig Forman

Local TV, radio, and newspaper reports heralded the launching of the nation's first WIC electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system by Assistant Secretary **Catherine Bertini** during mid-May in Casper, Wyoming. The pilot project was originally conceived by Wyoming WIC Director Terry Williams, who also pioneered an automated WIC certification and check issuance system in the state several years ago.

Bertini was "certified" to receive WIC benefits at the Casper Clinic and then went shopping at a nearby supermarket while being filmed by TV cameramen. Later, reporters from KTWQ-TV, KGWC-TV, Casper Star-Tribune and radio station KVOC asked why their city was chosen as a test site, what future uses might lie in store for EBT systems, and what impact EBT might have on government benefit programs.

The EBT system being tested in Natrona County issues electronically encoded benefits to 600 recipients who use a smart card to shop for their monthly WIC packages at supermarkets in Casper and Midwest-Edgerton, Wyoming. The smart card contains a list of foods itemized by universal product codes to which recipients are entitled and keeps track of each transaction they make during the month.



Dr. Duk Won of ASI, Inc., the contractor for the Wyoming WIC EBT project, looks on as Bertini examines a printout of her purchases. Bertini's appearance in Casper launched the nation's first test of a WIC EBT System.

The automated, off-line, user-friendly system allows recipients to make as many purchases of their monthly food package rather than buying everything at once. Clients use a benefit inquiry system at the store to obtain a listing of the benefits remaining on their card. The system deducts items purchased once the transaction is completed. Any ineligible items they attempt to purchase are rejected by an electronically programmed computer chip in the smart card.

All transactions are stored in the WIC terminals. Each night, a call is placed to each supermarket and that day's WIC purchases are trans-

ferred to the State office. Transactions are then electronically audited and reconciled with an authorized food package and price list. A payment disc is then prepared and vendors are electronically reimbursed that evening via automated clearinghouse protocol.

Bertini spent the day prior to her Wyoming visit in Denver keynoting a national meeting of Federal and State Commodity Supplemental Food Program officials and visiting an adult day care center, an elementary school lunch program, a menu modification project in the Denver Public Schools and an Arapahoe County WIC clinic.

Nelsen Addresses USDA FWP Regional Training Conference

The USDA FWP Regional Training Conference for Women, held in Philadelphia, was a success. **Betty Jo's** keynote speech was great! The attendees were hoping that she could stay longer, they wanted to talk with her. She welcomed the attendees to a meeting that could change their lives. Noting, that the meeting offered them the opportunity to "gain knowledge, be exposed to new perspectives, meet new people, learn new ideas and to share ideas. And, "if you are receptive to that change, she told them, you will not be the same when you leave."

Two hundred fifty-six (256) USDA employees registered for the



meeting and more than 300 attended the Tuesday and Thursday general sessions. Workshop topics included: Negotiation Skills, Conflict Management, Team Playng/ Team Building, Federal Personnel System; Career Development Strategies: SF-171 Preparation and Interview Techniques. In the afternoon issue groups were set up to discuss barriers, impacts and solutions in USDA to career development.

On Wednesday, **Cynthia Mercado**, FSIS Civil Rights Director, talked to the group on "Framework

for Change" and Thursday morning everyone was treated to a special session to hear a humorous and motivating speaker, **Rita Davenport**, share her thoughts on career development, balancing your personal and professional life, time management and more.

Eighteen FNSers and two HNISers attended the conference. FNS workshop instructors and facilitator included: **Toni Young**, SERO; **Darlene Barnes**, Karen Peko, **Ellen Buchanan**, and **Jill Herndon**, from HQs. **Betty Jo** met with the attendees on Monday evening. Then, the group got together again to discuss ways FNS could share the contents of the meeting throughout the Agency. A report on this meeting will be prepared and given to management.

SERO Sponsors Successful Secretarial/Clerical Seminar

SERO sponsored a secretarial/clerical seminar May 15-17 in Asheville, North Carolina, entitled "Catch the Spirit of the Quality Team and Share It!". The seminar was designed to enhance career development for employees who work in secretarial and clerical positions. Regional and field office secretaries and clerks along with other SERO staffers attended the two-day event which covered a variety of topics tailored to help these groups define career objectives and handle concerns related to their positions.

Judith Lewis, Confidential Assistant to **Catherine Bertini** spoke with the group about team building, the agency's vision/mission, excellence and professionalism, stress management and communication skills. This was not a one-way seminar where the attendees were lectured. Here, participants were encouraged to interact with the topic leader in a format more similar to a workshop than a seminar. Attendees even performed skits designed to combine comedy with finding solutions to common office dilemmas.

Several objectives were accomplished during the seminar. Regional and field office staff were able to meet face-to-face and share



similar concerns. RA **Virgil Conrad** outlined career paths in FNS for the participants which demonstrated the variety of promotional potential at FNS. **Lewis'** interactive approach helped attendees to discuss and find ways to identify and resolve conflicts, communicate more effectively and achieve excellence. **Phyllis Weaver**, **Betty Jo Nelsen's** secretary, reviewed the role of the executive secretary. And SERO's Equal Opportunity Specialist **Toni Abernathy-Young** discussed sexual harassment in the workplace.

Attendees evaluated the seminar and were overwhelmingly pleased with the quality and delivery of the information. They called **Lewis'** approach effective, charismatic and highly motivational. Attendees also praised presentations given by

Weaver, Conrad and Abernathy-Young.

"Being new in the field of FNS, the training helped me to adjust to the broad scope of responsibilities that FNS maintains," one participant said in her evaluation.

"I especially liked all the topics given by **Judith Lewis**--none of them were dull. DYNAMICI FAC-TUALI UNDERSTOODI INTEREST-INGI NEVER BORINGI **Toni** was excellent also in her sexual harassment class. All in all a wonderful success!" Another participant commented.

Melody Tumlin, secretary to RA **Conrad**, also spoke highly of the seminar. "It helped us get to know one another and more importantly it helped us feel like we ARE part of the team. I think sometimes the importance of these members of the staff is overlooked."

NERO Holds Fourth Secretarial Seminar

On May 6-8, NERO held its fourth annual Secretarial Seminar in Mystic Connecticut. The meeting, highlighted with a presentation by Assistant Secretary **Catherine Bertini**, was attended by clerks and secretaries from NERO offices throughout the region. At the invitation of NERO Administrator **Harry McLean**, **Janie Manley** and **Darlene Bryant** of Headquarters also attended the meeting.

This year's seminar concentrated on both the technical aspects of secretarial work and the potential for career development. Besides speaking to the group on career development strategies, **Bertini** presented awards to NERO WIC Secretary **Pat Murphy** and Rochester Field Office Secretary



Claudia Ortiz, both of whom were nominated by co-workers for their outstanding support.

"Really, I thought the seminar was great this year," said **Ruth Van Stone**, secretary in NERO's financial management section. "The career advancement topics are a motivator and, as in previous years, I appreciated the sessions on

specific secretarial skills. I find that very often they are things you know but need to be reminded of."

"We got to meet and get together with some of the people in the field," said **Jeanette Crose**, secretary in the food stamp section. "I work with a lot of these people over the telephone. It's valuable to me to get to know them in person."



POC Wraps Up National Fitness Month...

May was National Employee Fitness Month and all across the Nation people were becoming more aware of the importance of physical fitness. Thanks to Nurse Perkey and the Fitness Committee, FNS' first try at organizing activities for the Month was a success. From the kick-off to the special awards celebration employees from FNS, Jefferson Hospital, CNA, and more enjoyed the friendly competition, speakers, and, of course, those prizes. At the awards ceremony **George Braley** and **Joe Leo** handed out awards and blue ribbons, and the Federal Women's Program donated food along with the deli from POC. Many pictures were taken throughout the month, but we just could not run all of them so starting at the top left hand corner and going clockwise is:

--THE Volleyball Team (l) to (r) Carletha Washington, Jon Lash, Terri West John Kasprzak, Cindy Hull, Pete Sheppard, Venita Smith, Mike Yost (not pictured), Janice Burns, Donna Davis).

--Andrea Hardy working her way through the relay...and YES she is smiling!

--Holly McPeak tests some of the equipment on signup day.

--The 5K Walkers and Runners, (l) to (r) Diane Kriviski, Terri West, Estelle Gross (1st place woman), Anne Gariazzo (2nd place), Jim Kelly (3rd place man), Katie Washington (3rd place), John Dunn (2nd place), Sylvia Love, Ron Ulibarri--FROM MPRO (1st place), Joyce Johnson. (not pictured John Carmack, Joe Surdeck).

--OAE's "think tankers" took 1st place in the relay (l) to (r) Larry Carnes, Diana Perez, Denise Scott, Jan Lilja, Barbara Fay Floyd Miles II.

--Walkers/Runners take off!

--Bobbie Henman, author of the "Lean and Luscious" cook books, speaks about no fat cooking.

We're going to start planning for next year's activities soon so if you want to help call Nurse Perkey, 756-6000, Room 218.

MWRO Holds "Making Food Dollars Count Workshop"

Story and photos by Mary Jane Getlinger

The Midwest Region Food and Nutrition Service in cooperation with 17 local Detroit health and social service agencies sponsored a "Making Food Dollars Count" workshop for Detroit area nutrition educators, community workers and anyone interested in helping low-income families increase the purchasing power of their food dollars. Approximately 100 professionals and para-professionals attended the nutrition education workshop held at Focus: HOPE Child Care Center on May 23. In addition to providing information about shopping and resources, the workshop offered an opportunity for networking among agency representatives.

USDA's Consumer Advisor **Ann Chadwick** presented an overview of the "Making Food Dollars Count" food buying education project and the thrifty food plan. A tri-county (Macomb, Oakland and Wayne County) University of Michigan Cooperative Extension panel of experts explained local services available to low-income individuals. **Joseph Sarafa**, of the Associated Food Dealers of Michigan, discussed shopping from a retailer's point of view and Dr. **Jeannette Poindexter** of the University of Michigan discussed "Healthy Nutrition as it Relates to Infant Mortality and Teenage Pregnancy." Other local community resource persons explained and answered questions about services for area families.

Participants were also able to learn about available community services by visiting agency exhibits and by networking and sharing with others who serve low income families. Detroit City Consumer Affairs Director Dr. **Ester Shapiro** presented information on Michigan's item pricing and advertising act. Wayne County Department of Social Services deputy director **Sam Chambers** brought the conference message home in his wrap-up address, "Where Do We Go From Here?" He addressed the problems which may result when cuts in Michigan general assistance take place at the end of the month and how services of agencies represented at the workshop may be needed by some Michigan low-income people.



Prior to the "Making Food Dollars Count" workshop, Chadwick along with Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program workers Geraldine Dangerfield and Loretta Lancaster participated in a local Detroit market basket survey which showed that by shopping carefully and comparing prices, food stamp recipients can purchase nutritious foods for their families within the thrifty food plan guidelines.

AROUND THE COUNTRY...



WRO Welcomes Jim Nordin as Financial Management Director

by Kristy Bole

After several months under an acting director, the WRO Financial Management staff finally welcomed its new director, **James Nordin** June 3. Jim came to FNS from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Development Services, where he was the director of the Office of Fiscal Operations (OFO) for Region IX for the past four years. Prior to that, he served as a supervisor in OFO in the Chicago region. From 1972 to 1983, Jim worked in the Head Start program as a program specialist, supervisor and as the Head Start Bureau Chief. Jim was born in Chicago and received his bachelors and masters degrees there. He is now firmly established as a Californian.

Native American Coordination Project Underway at SWRO

SWRO's field office initiative to expand coordination of nutrition education efforts between Native American food assistance programs and other organizations/program with related interests was recently demonstrated by the Choctaw Nation FDPIR and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Both organizations located in Durant, Oklahoma, saw the joint project as a "win-win" opportunity.

During April, home economics students at the university prepared a variety of food items made with commodities. These items were then taken to each FDPIR distribution site to provide participants an commodity foods. FDPIR participants were eager to taste the wares and expressed their approval in terms of "umms and ahhs."

This effort was coordinated by **Diane Large**, Choctaw Nation FDPIR Director, and **Wynona Boatner**, Southeastern instructor.

Lou Hankins, field office nutritionist, plans to use projects such as this to illustrate the benefits of coordinated efforts on behalf of all groups with similar nutrition education interests or goals. Lou explained, "The success of coordinated efforts like this is seen as just the beginning of more expanded projects in the future."

USDA Agencies and Indian Tribes Cooperate on Nutrition Education Project

Two USDA agencies, FNS and the Extension Service, have joined forces to conduct a unique nutrition education project on the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming. Family members from the Arapahoe and Shoshone tribes are already benefitting from the project, which is tied to the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Indian families are being taught how to improve their diets by two tribal members, who are part-time Extension Service employees. They have staged a series of demonstrations at government warehouses on ways to make creative use of Federal commodities and they visit reservation households to teach principles of good nutrition to homemakers. Most of the advice these nutritionists have passed along to their Indian neighbors on the reservation comes from videotapes and lesson plans developed by the Extension Service's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). EFNEP grew out of a 1960's effort by the Federal government to educate needy inner city homemakers on how to stretch their limited food budgets and to select nutritious foods and prepare meals balanced among the four food groups.

The Arapahoe-Shoshone nutrition education project traces its beginnings to discussions at a meeting between Indian FDPIR directors and staff from the Mountain Plains Regional Office. Tribal program directors indicated there was a growing need for nutrition education on their reservations due to the high incidence of obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes among Indian clients.

From that meeting, two separate MPRO Indian groups--one representing three tribes in Kansas and the other two Wyoming tribes--tried different approaches to a common problem. The Kansas tribes selected a steering committee that devised a comprehensive plan, developed a curriculum, assembled teaching materials, and trained tribal staff to teach nutrition education classes. Wyoming's advisory council elected to adopt portions of the already existing and successful EFNEP training program. Since the Wyoming Extension Service already maintained an office on the reservation, liaison between Indian nutritionists and local and State Extension EFNEP staff worked smoothly.

Preliminary results indicate that nutrition education efforts are paying off. Reports of weight loss and a lessening of severe diabetes symptoms have been reported by some participants. Continued efforts, however, will be needed to change longstanding dietary practices that have contributed to health problems among America's Indian population.

AROUND THE COUNTRY (cont.)...

CSFP National Meeting Held in Denver

by Joanne Widner

Following welcoming remarks last month by MPRO Administrator David Alspach, Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini opened the first national Commodity Supplemental Food Program meeting in 10 years in Denver. The 2-1/2-day agenda emphasized the theme "Preparing for New Challenges" and included workshops on state and local managers' policy, alternative delivery methods, inventory control, federal expectations, food ordering and purchasing processes, dietary

guidelines and nutrition education, caseload management, and WIC-CSFP coordination. Attendees also visited the Denver CSFP site and saw demonstrations of outstanding ADP systems. Exhibitors included Best Start/Baby Your Baby, Colorado Extension Service, Food and Nutrition Information Center, and Western Dairy Council. Supplemental Food Programs Division Director Ron Vogel wrapped up the final session.



Field Staff Conducts CACFP and SFSP Training to Sponsors

by Kim Jabat

The Virginia field staff has been conducting administrative training sessions for the Child and Adult Care and Summer Food Programs. This year, 10 sessions with a total of 177 day care personnel representing 97 sponsoring organizations and centers have been conducted by the field. Currently the field is providing new Summer sponsors with technical assistance on application and program requirements.

OIC John Wingo and Albert Perna of the Alexandria field office, Shirley Miller and Mike Chapluk of the Tazewell satellite office and Susan Rischewski, Katrina Ward, and Donna Evans of the Richmond field office conducted ten training sessions, which covered administrative recordkeeping and management of the programs. The overall response from the participants was very positive, and many expressed an interest in receiving additional training, especially in the area of food service and preparation.

Rochester, New York Field Office Holds Training for Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors

Besides managing a huge number of retailers; beyond processing formidable piles of quality control cases; over and above doing warehouse reviews to protect USDA commodities; the Rochester, NY Field Office is responsible for authorizing, reviewing and training almost 250 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsors in 29 counties in upstate New York. On May 1 and 2, training for CACFP sponsors in these 29 counties reached a new level. Stressing nutrition and food safety as well as administrative responsibilities, the field office hosted more than 100 child and adult day care sponsors at a Nutrition and Caregivers Workshop.

"Actually, the response was a little overwhelming," said Dorinda McPhatter of the Rochester staff. "Though it was a two-day workshop, some sponsors had originally planned on only attending the first or second day. At the end of the first day, though, a lot of people said it was so good they were going to stay through the second day. We hadn't planned on that many people and almost ran out of space."

The workshop was conducted by the Rochester Field Office staff and guest speakers, and covered a wide range of topics. "Sponsors had indicated an interest in nutrition issues, so we tried to provide plenty of that," said Leon Sirutis, Area Manager/OIC in Rochester. Stephanie Clark, a member of the field office staff with a degree in nutrition presented two nutrition-oriented sessions. Guest speakers from the local Cooperative Extension Service and the New York State Department of Health also spoke on nutrition issues. Furthermore, a speaker from the American Heart Association spoke on low-fat diets. "After the workshop, numerous sponsors made a point of telling us how much they had learned and how much they appreciated the nutrition sessions," Sirutis said.

NERO Deputy Administrator Miguel Valdivielso, who attended the workshop, was impressed with its organization, quality and depth of topics, and its professional atmosphere. He was also impressed with the individuals that made the workshop so successful.

"The conference was prepared and carried out solely by the people at the Rochester Field Office," Valdivielso said. "Their initiative got the project started and their enthusiasm and dedication made it work. Leon (Sirutis) and his crew deserve a round of applause for their performance."

FROM HEADQUARTERS...

Changes Taking Place in OGAPI

OGAPI has recently undertaken a structural reorganization that will strengthen FNS' ability to communicate with a broader range of outside interests. They have accomplished this by establishing a new Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (OIA) that will be charged to develop on-going relationships with organizations representing Governors, State Legislators, Mayors, County Officials, advocacy groups, commodity associations and private corporations.

Linda Barnett has been brought aboard to be the Director of OIA. Linda comes to OGAPI from what used to be the Family Support Administration at DHHS where she served in a similar position as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. Prior to that, she was Special Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director, Office of Child Support Enforcement. "Intergovernmental affairs is a new function for FNS," Barnett says. "My mission is to

develop and implement a inter-governmental affairs program to enhance and support the activities of FNS. We will educate the private sector and organizations about FNS programs, and we'll work in partnership with these groups to make the food assistance programs more effective and even more successful."

Staff for OIA will come from the staff of what was commonly known as the "Speech" Branch in the Office of Public Information. These individuals, **Martha Newton, Mike McAteer, Bonnie Polk, Wini Scheffler and Debbie Massey**, have been assigned issue and program responsibilities in which they have been asked to become as current as possible in their knowledge of these programs and issues.

OGAPI has also brought on board **Chris Kirby** as the Media Communications Coordinator of OGAPI. "Chris' job will be to create and implement a proactive

media and communications program for FNS," said **Dick Thaxton**, director of OGAPI. **Chris** was Secretary **Madigan's** press secretary on Capitol Hill. Prior to that, **Chris** was a reporter for 5 years which included spending time as a radio anchor, news director, television writer and assistant producer. "FNS is doing many good things for the poor and undernourished of this Nation, and I hope to get that message out using several methods, including increased use of USDA's Radio and Television Service and better outreach to reporters interested in our issues," said **Chris**.

And, last but not least, **Marlene Guroff** has left OGAPI to work with the Special Nutrition Program, and **Lisa Yue**, who recently left to work in the Food Stamp Program, just accepted a job at the White House.

OAE's Steven Gale Joins Agency for International Development

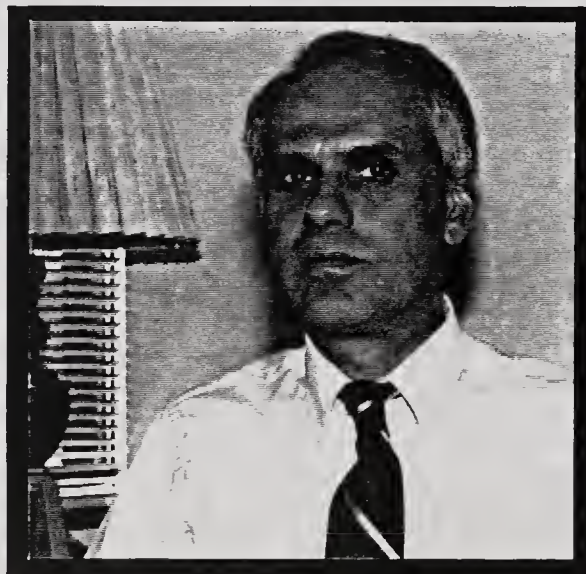
by *Mary Morris*

After 12 years of service at FNS, **Steven Gale** joined the Agency for International Development's Center for Development Information and Evaluation. The Center is responsible for monitoring and assessing all U.S. economic and humanitarian efforts to developing countries. Steve will be stationed in Washington and serve as Advisor for international program evaluation.

Steve is no stranger to these efforts. He has extensive experience in the areas of child health and nutrition programs during his academic and professional experience over the past 15 years.

On a personal level, Steve tells us he will miss many folks at FNS. "By and large, I've made many lifetime friends at FNS, and it's a little sad to be leaving," said Steve. "On the up side, I'm going to be working in an international environment with the opportunity to learn and see how American foreign policy translates into action abroad--and to make new friends along the way."

Here's to wishing Steve the best of success--godspeed and shalom. We will indeed miss you.



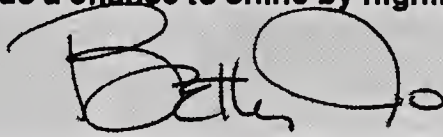
Exercise Class

Get in shape for the summer and have fun with lunch time exercise. Classes forming now for every Tuesday and Thursday at lunch. Price will depend on how many participants sign up. Contact **Linda Clarke** (756-3026) or **Tama Eliff** (756-3730) for more information.

Speaking personally...

A Chance to Shine

That's exactly what FNS has, because Secretary Madigan is extremely interested in nutrition education and nutrition information. In fact, in his first speech in which the Secretary described his vision for USDA, he emphasized the importance he places on nutrition education. And in a recent paper outlining "the new defining issues for American agriculture's future," the Secretary has made "Using Education to Achieve Better Nutrition" one of USDA's four strategic goals. Assistant Secretary Bertini is co-chairing a Department-wide Nutrition Education Task Force which was established by Secretary Madigan for the purpose of developing a budget proposal for FY 1993 in the area of nutrition education, research, and information that cuts across a number of USDA agencies. I think you can see that the Secretary's great interest in and commitment to nutrition education puts FNS at the forefront of USDA agencies, and really does give us a chance to shine by highlighting the things that we do best!



Employee Suggestion a Hit!

As a result of an employee suggestion, an FNS Study Room has been established on the 11th Floor of Park Office Center. The Study Room is intended for use by FNS employees who need to get away from their phones and other interruptions at their desks in order to work on rushes or special projects. The room, which can accommodate two people at small tables, is located just off the elevator lobby on the 11th floor. Please sign the sign-in sheet whenever you use the room. Hopefully this new service available to FNS employees will meet a need for a place to "get away from it all" and get some work done--and thanks to the individual who suggested it!

Salute to Asian Pacific Month...

All kinds of activities went on both at Headquarters and the Regional Offices during the celebration of Asian Pacific Month. To wrap up all the activities, we are sharing a story with you written by WRO's Remy Valdez. Remy is originally from the Philippines and now most of her family lives in Hawaii. Remy wrote this story in celebration of Asian Pacific Month. Remy is in the Food Stamp Program at WRO.

History and Current Events...

by Remy Valdez

Extolled by Mark Twain as the "loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean"... ALOHA!... today's spotlight is focused on HAWAII.

"How shall we account for this nation spreading itself so far over the vast ocean?" asked English explorer Capt. James Cook after landing at Kauai on January 20, 1778. Setting course by the sun and stars, by ocean currents and swells, and by the flight of birds, Polynesian mariners sailed their double-hulled canoes 2,000 nautical miles from the Marquesas Islands to populate this remote archipelago between A.D. 300 and 500. By 1778, perhaps 300,000 Polynesians were organized into warring and feudal-like farming chiefdoms; 17 years later, all but Kauai were consolidated into a kingdom by Kamehameha.

As seafaring nations expanded their commerce, Hawaii became a port of call for fur traders and whalers, mostly Americans and British. Protestant missionaries from New England arrived in 1820, followed by French Catholics in 1827. By 1840, the Protestants, involved in affairs of State as well as church, had converted many Hawaiians. Extraordinarily, there was a great demand for food during California's gold rush, and the peopling of the Northwest galvanized agriculture, especially sugar, potatoes, and coffee, and drew Hawaii deeper into the U.S. orbit.

Sugar, favored by ideal climate and soil, molded the islands after passage of an 1850 contract-labor act. The industry was spurred by the U.S. Civil War, then shackled by U.S. tariffs. An 1876 treaty lifted duties on most agricultural goods. With massive labor imports, production skyrocketed. In 1898, five years after its last monarch fell, Hawaii was annexed; in 1900, it became a U.S. territory. Over 60,000 Japanese then made up 40 percent of the population.

In 1901, James D. Dole founded the Hawaiian Pineapple Company.

From Oahu, plantations invaded other islands. Rebounding after the Depression, the industry met 95 percent of world demand for pineapple juice by 1940. Yet sugar remained king, and the landed few controlled the landless many. World War II catalyzed Hawaii from planter society to economic democracy. Agitation for statehood grew, U.S. capital flooded in, machines replaced men on plantations, and cities and industries blossomed.

In 1959, Hawaii became a State. Honolulu, the heart of Oahu where 80 percent of the population now lives--mushroomed. Federal spending as well as tourist dollars propped the economy. In-migration continued, bringing tens of thousands of Caucasian mainlanders, and also Filipinos, Samoans, and Koreans. Hawaiians now walk a tight rope between the rising tourist and population tide and the limited farm acreage and fragile beauty of their islands.



Leadership Team in Place at National Food Service Management Institute

by Phil Shanholtzer

Josephine Martin of Decatur, Ga., has been named executive director of the national Food Service Management Institute at the University of Mississippi.

"Dr. Martin is a national leader in nutrition education," said **Catherine Bertini**, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services. "Under the direction of a such dynamic professional, the Food Service Management Institute is well prepared to meet the many challenges of providing first-rate training and information to the nation's child nutrition practitioners."

The FSMI was established by Congress in 1989 to help ensure that top-flight research and training was available to the nation's school food service managers. It is now in its second year of operations.

"It has been a busy two years for the Institute," Bertini said. "We have established the physical facilities at the University of Mississippi at Oxford and the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg. We have established advisory boards to guide the development of the institute. And we have begun recruiting a professional staff with a broad range of expertise and many years of experience in school feeding, food service management and training program development. Dr. Martin is the latest addition to that staff."

Martin has worked in school food service and program administration for more than 40 years.

She moves into her new position from the post of associate superintendent at the Georgia Department of Education's Office of Special Services in Atlanta. She has been awarded the prestigious Silver Plate Award for "Food Service Operator of the Year" from the International Food Manufacturers Association, and the American School Food Service Association Executive Director's Award "For Exceptional Service to Youth." Martin holds a doctoral degree in educational administration and a bachelor's degree in home economics from the University of Georgia, and a master's degree in home economics education from Columbia University.

"Dr. Martin has been a long time supporter of the concept of a national institute, and is dedicated to making it a progressive and effective means of reaching food service personnel," Bertini said.

Bertini said that with most of its start-up work completed, the Institute is embarking on several programs through its three divisions, Development and Applied Research, Education, and Training and Technology Transfer. Among the planned initiatives for this year are:

- A conference with school food service directors and related disciplines to determine future trends in school food service.
- Research to identify which factors have the greatest impact on productivity.

- Development of a "train the trainer" program and completion of the initial session of training.

- Identification of levels of competency for workers in Child Nutrition and related programs, as an initial step in developing a master's curriculum.

- Establishment of an information clearinghouse in conjunction with the Food and Nutrition Information Center of the National Agricultural Library.

- Establishment of a satellite educational system to provide information to food service personnel.

With the addition of Martin, the Institute's top management team is complete, Bertini said. Others heading up the Institute include Dr. **Jeannie Sneed**, Director of Development and Applied Research; Dr. **Laverne Hellums**, Director of Education and Training; and Dr. **Jeanette Phillips**, Assistant Executive Director/Director of Technology Transfer.

In addition, two advisory boards have been formed during the Institute's first two years. The General Advisory Board convened and developed the mission statement and the long range strategic plan of the Institute. The Research, Education and Technical Advisory Board, using the overall goals outlined in the strategic plan, developed the plan of work for the second year of operations.



(l) to (r) **Ralph Compton** District 27 Admin. Lieutenant Governor, **Beverly Hitchins**, District 27 Governor, **Nancy Gaston**, Past President, **Cecilia Fitzgerald**, President, **Joe Leo**, **Susie Coddington**, Educational Vice President, **Darlene Barnes**, Administrative Vice President.

The Park Center Toastmasters Holds Chartering Celebration

On May 21 the Park Center Toastmaster Club finally got to celebrate the fact that they have officially chartered. **Joe Leo** praised the efforts of the club and read remarks from **Betty Jo**. With more than 25 members and still more applying, the club is really making moves. Special thanks to those of you from over a year ago who wanted the club, and hung in there to see it finally take hold. And, thanks to FNS Mgmt. for supporting this great training opportunity!

If you are interested in being a member, please call **Darlene Barnes** at 756-3286 or drop by a meeting--Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00, 4th flr. conf. room.

FROM THE HEALTH UNIT...

On Monday, July 1, Deanne Gauya, the White House Fitness Specialist who spoke to us during National Fitness Month, will be here at FNS. For information on an exercise program for yourself, see Nurse Perkey and be part of the FITNESS BUNCH!



Sharon Eldred was one of several people helping to sign up employees for National Fitness Month activities. Here Sharon is wearing her "Commit to Get Fit" T-Shirt.

Special thanks to those of you who came out to run in the Race for the Cure, the race to fight breast cancer. FNS had more than 10 people participate in either the walking or running event, and we also had people volunteer to support the race. Over 12,000 people ran around the Capitol in support of this important cause. Next year USDA hopes to have even more people come out and join them!



Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
Grants Management Specialist (2 positions)	_ (A-LCA)	GS-0501	7/9/11	06/17/91	91-83	*GMO
Supervisory Program Analyst	_ _ (A)	GM-0343	14	06/17/91	91-89	OAE
Food Program Specialist	_ _ _ (A)	GS-0120	5/7	06/24/91	91-92**	PAD
Personnel Management Spec.	_ (A)	GS-0201	5/7	06/18/91	91-94	PED
Supervisory Budget Analyst	_ _ _ (A)	GM-0560	14	06/24/91	91-95	BUD
Food Program Aide	_ _ _ _ (FNS-HQ)	GS-0102	6	06/17/91	91-98	SFPD
Computer Programmer Analyst	_ (FNS-W)	GS-0334	13	07/01/91	91-99	IRMD
Labor Relations Asst.(Typing)	_ _ (A)	GS-0203	6/7	07/01/91	91-100**	PED

AREA OF CONSIDERATION

(A) - All Sources
 (A-LCA) . . . - All Sources, Local Commuting Area
 (FNS-HQ) . . . - FNS Headquarters Wide
 (FNS-W) . . . - Food and Nutrition Service-Nationwide
 (HNIS-W) . . . - Human Nutrition Info. Service - Wide

* Corrects closing date.

** Relocation expenses will not be paid

OFFICE LOCATION

BRD Benefit Redemption Division
 CND Child Nutrition Division
 GMO Grants Management Office
 HNIS Human Nutrition Information Service
 FDD Food Distribution Division
 PDD Program Development Division
 SFPD Supplemental Food Programs Division
 PAD Program Accountability Division
 OAE Office of Analysis & Evaluation
 PED Personnel Division

REMINDER...

Don't forget to sign up for Savings Bonds -- applications will be accepted through Friday, June 28

Upcoming Events...

JUNE

20 Senate Hearing on Government Coordination of
of Immunizations - WIC

28 SHARON PARKER'S LAST DAY (WRO Personnel)
(Sharon is moving over to Dept. of Treasury)

JULY

4 HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY
 5 Employees on the Job Recognition Day
 8-9 Coordinated Review System for School Programs
Alexandria, VA
 9-11 SFPD Program Directors' Mtg., San Francisco, CA
 10-12 Financial Mgmt. Directors' Mtg., Alexandria, VA
 14 Bastille Day

Darlene Barnes, Editor
and Desktop Design
Pamela D. Faith, HQs Photography

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